

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated July 8, 2009, claims 1-5 and 7-19 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 11, 12, and 17-19 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b).

In this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and claim 10 has been cancelled. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations as recited in claim 10 and additional limitations which can be seen in, for example, the first full paragraph on page 9 of the specification.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 13-16 are now active in this application, of which claim 1 is independent.

Interview

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, Examiner Yang's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephone interview on October 7, 2009, during which the cited prior art was discussed. Based on the interview, Applicants prepared amendments to claim 1.

Claim Rejection– 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 09-296214 (“JP’214”).

The JP’214 does not identically disclose a manufacturing method of a thin component including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1, as amended. Specifically, the reference does not disclose, among other things, “the thin component is a bearing ring of a thrust needle roller bearing,” as recited in claim 1.

The JP'214 describes a processed material to be processed, but does not specifically indicate what the processed material is. Accordingly, the claimed subject matter is not anticipated by the JP'214.

The subject matter disclosed in the present application was obtained through the experiments shown in Tables 1-5 in the specification. What was found through those experiments were that a warping deformation can be reduced and a bearing life can be improved by manufacturing the bearing ring of the thrust needle rolling bearing using the disclosed method. While the disclosed subject matter could not have been obtained without the above-described experiments, the JP'214 and Grell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,227, see below) neither disclose nor suggest such experiments or analyses. Hence, even persons skilled in the art could not have readily arrived at the disclosed subject matter. Applicants submit that the subject matter would not have been obvious over the JP'214 and the US'227.

Based on the foregoing, the JP'214 does not identically disclose a manufacturing method of a thin component including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are also patentably distinguishable over the JP'214 at least because these claims respectively include all the limitations as recited in independent claim 1. The rejection of claim 10 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claim. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and favorable consideration thereof.

Claim Rejection– 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP'214 in view of Grell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,227, hereinafter “Grell”).

Claims 9 and 13-16 depend on independent claim 1. Applicants thus incorporate herein the arguments made in response to the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for anticipation as evidenced by the JP'214. The Examiner's additional comments and reference to Grell do not cure the deficiencies of the JP'214 at least because Grell does not teach the above-discussed limitations of independent claim 1.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and favorable consideration thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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